Appl. No.: 10/706,861 Filed: 11/12/2003 Page 5

REMARKS

The above amendments are presented to conform the claims to United States practice and to place the application into better form for examination.

Respectfully submitted

Paul F. Pedigo

Registration No. 31,650

Customer No. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000 Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111 CLT01/4654283v1

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Missing Parts, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 25, 2004.

Grace R. Rippy